

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 05868 071312 Z

47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 DPW-01 RSR-01 /108 W

----- 008450

O 071220 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9804

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL DANANG IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5868

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS MILI VS

SUBJECT ICCS HELICOPTER LOSS

1. ICCS SAIGON HAS REQUESTED PRG SAIGON GRANT CLEARANCE FOR RESCUE MISSION. AS YET, THEY HAVE RECEIVED NO RESPONSE, BUT AMBASSADORS DHARSONO AND IDRIS HAVE GONE TO CAMP DAVIS TO DISCUSS MATTER. EARLIER, EMBOFF TELEPHONED PRG AT DAVIS STATION WITH SAME REQUEST. PRG RESPONDED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO GET CONFIRMATION OF THE FACTS FROM THEIR PEOPLE IN QUANG TRI BEFORE GIVING US AN ANSWER.

2. IN MR 1 CANDEL COL. MCLEOD CROSSED THE THACH HAN RIVER TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH PRG REPRESENTATIVE MAJOR HIEN. HIEN REFUSED TO AUTHORIZE ICCS OR ANY RESCUE HELICOPTER TO ENTER AREA. HIEN ASSERTED THAT DOWNED CHOPPERS HAD BEEN FLYING 30 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF THE AUTHORIZED ROUTE AND STATED THAT " ANY CASUALTIES WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF BY PRG MEDICS".

3. TWO ICCS HELICOPTERS ARE AT THE THACH HAN READY TO GO IF PRG
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GIVES PERMISSION. HOWEVER, AS ICCS CHOPPER CREWS ARE NOT SAR TRAINED, ICCS SAIGON PLENARY MEETING ACCEPTED OUR OFFER OF RESCUE OPERATION BY SAR TEAM FROM NAKHON PHANOM. ICCS DOES NOT WANT SAR MISSION DISPATCHED FROM NKP UNTIL PRG CLEARANCE GRANTED. THEY ALSO HAVE REQUESTED THAT SAR MISSION FLY FIRST TO PHU BAI TO TAKE ICCS REPRESENTATIVES ON BOARD BEFORE BEGINNING SEARCH. IN ANY EVENT, RESCUE ATTEMPT NOT NOW POSSIBLE UNTIL FIRST LIGHT SUNDAY APRIL 8-- SOME TEN HOURS FROM NOW. DAO REPORTS THAT SAR TEAM IS HOLDING IN NKP AWAITING PRG CLEARANCE.

4. LATEST AND MOST COMPLETE WORD WE HAVE ON DOWNED HELICOPTERS IS AS FOLLOWS: LTC PHUONG, PRG LIAISON OFFICER AT GIO LINH, TOLD CANDEL COL MACLEOD HE HAD MADE CONTACT WITH PRG FORCES IN VICINITY OF DOWNED CHOPPERS. THEY REPORTED ONE CHOPPER ON THE GROUND UNDAUNTED AND PASSENGERS SAFE AT XD 856388 (NEAR ROUTE 9). OTHER CHOPPER " MET WITH AN ACCIDENT", NO COORDINATES AVAILABLE. PRG HAS NOT REPORTED WHICH CHOPPER DAMAGED OR CAUSE OF THE CRASH. WE DO NOT YET HAVE PASSENGER MANIFESTS, BUT ON BOARD HELICOPTER NO. 1 WERE: 3 PRG LIAISON, 2 HUNGDEL, 3 CREW (2 U. S., 1 FILIPINO). NO BOARD SECOND WERE: 2 CANDEL, 3 POLDEL, 2 INDODEL AND 3 CREW (2 U. S., 1 FILIPINO).
WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: MILI, VS, MILI
To: BUDAPEST
CINCPAC
DANANG
EA
JAKARTA
OTTAWA
SECSTATE WASHDC

USSAG NKP RTAFB

WARSAW

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